



APPLICATION NUMBER FILING DATE

FIRST NAMED APPLICANT

ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE



DATE MAILED:

NOTICE OF IMPROPER REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

The request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 filed on 8/16/04 is improper for reason(s) indicated below:

- ☐ 1. Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application for a design patent. Applicant may wish to consider filing a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) or a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(d).
- ☐ 2. Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application that was filed before June 8, 1995. Applicant may wish to consider filing a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b) or a CPA under 37 CFR 1.53(d).
- ☐ 3. Continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to an application unless prosecution in the application is closed. If the RCE was accompanied by a reply to a non-final Office action, the reply will be entered and considered under 37 CFR 1.111. If the RCE was not accompanied by a reply, the time period set forth in the last Office action continues to run from the mailing date of that action.
- ☐ 4. The request was not filed before payment of the issue fee, and no petition under 37 CFR 1.313 was granted. If this application has not yet issued as a patent, applicant may wish to consider filing either a petition under 37 CFR 1.313 to withdraw this application from issue, or a continuing application under 37 CFR 1.53(b).
- ☐ 5. The request was not filed before abandonment of the application. The application was abandoned, or proceedings terminated on _____. Applicant may wish to consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137 to revive this abandoned application.
- ☐ 6. The request was not accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) as required by 37 CFR 1.114. Since the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the final Office action or notice of allowance continues to run from the mailing date of that action or notice.
- ☒ 7. The request was not accompanied by a submission as required by 37 CFR 1.114. Since the application is not under appeal, the time period set forth in the final Office action or notice of allowance continues to run from the mailing date of that action or notice. *See attachment*

Note: If a request for a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) has been filed in the utility or plant application (including a previously filed CPA) that was filed on or after May 29, 2000, the request for a CPA has been treated as a RCE because the CPA practice no longer applies to such application. The constructive RCE, however, is improper for reason(s) indicated above.

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with any reply.

Direct the reply and any questions about this notice to:

Steven Garland, Examining Group 2125
571
(703) 305-272-3741
FORM PTO-2051 (Rev. 3/2001)

Attachment to Paper No. 10212004

1. The request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 filed on 8/16/04 is improper because it was not accompanied by a submission complying with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.111. The submission only includes an information disclosure statement which is not considered a bona fide attempt to provide a complete reply to the final office action of 8/4/04. Any submission must respond to the outstanding final office action of 8/4/04 and the period for response continues to run from the date of the final rejection. See MPEP 706.07(h) "V. AFTER FINAL REJECTION".

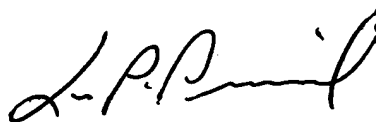
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven R Garland whose telephone number is 571-272-3741. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached at (571)272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SRG

STEVEN GARLAND



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

11-04-04

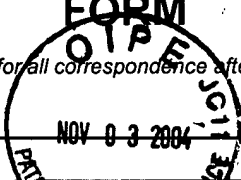
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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

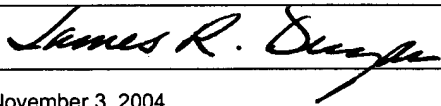
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) 	Application Number	09/653,272
	Filing Date	August 31, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Akram et al.
	Group Art Unit	2125
	Examiner Name	S. Garland
Attorney Docket Number		2269-4181US (96-0973.02/US)

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postcard receipt acknowledgment (attached to the front of this transmittal) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplicate copy of this transmittal sheet in the event that additional filing fees are required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Restriction Requirement/Election of Species Requirement dated <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment in response to office action dated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 in response to final office action dated August 4, 2004. <input type="checkbox"/> Additional claims fee - Check No. in the amount of \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Chief Draftsman and copy of FIGS. with changes made in red <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of Formal Drawings <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawings (sheets)	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO/SB/08A (08-00); <input type="checkbox"/> copy of cited references <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement; PTO/SB/08A (08-00); copy of cited references and Check No. in the amount of \$180.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Power of Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time and Check No. in the amount of \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Appendix A (Clean Version of Substitute Specification) and Appendix B (Version of Substitute Specification with Markings to Show Changes Made)
Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required but not submitted with any document or request requiring fee payment under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account 20-1469 during pendency of this application.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	James R. Duzan	Registration No. 28,393
Signature		
Date	November 3, 2004	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Express Mail Label Number: <u>EV 325781442 US</u>
Date of Deposit: <u>November 3, 2004</u>
Person Making Deposit: <u>Christopher Haughton</u>

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.